

## 12. (*Parkinsonia microphylla*) / *Cylindropuntia bigelovii* / *Encelia farinosa* Shrubland Association (P)

(Yellow paloverde) / Teddybear cholla / Brittlebush Shrubland Association (P)

This shrubland is characterized by a subcanopy layer (0.5–2 m) consistently dominated by teddybear cholla (*Cylindropuntia bigelovii*) at 5–15% cover, and a field layer (<0.5 m) dominated by brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) at an average of 15% cover. The canopy layer (>2 m) is sparse, with ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*) and yellow paloverde (*Parkinsonia microphylla*) providing consistent, low cover averaging 2% and 4%, respectively. Velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*) is inconsistent, ranging from absent to 3% cover. Saguaros (*Carnegiea gigantea*) are present throughout, but only account for <1% cover. The characteristic teddybear cholla can appear locally patchy but should be distributed uniformly across the broader landscape. The species typically prefers areas of exposed bedrock or high surface-rock cover. The remainder of the subcanopy is composed of a mix of associate shrubs and succulents that, when present, contribute <4% cover each. These include staghorn cholla (*Cylindropuntia versicolor*), whitethorn acacia (*Vachellia constricta*), creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), and cactus apple (*Opuntia engelmannii*). The field dominant, brittlebush, is the most-consistent and highest-cover species in the community, reaching up to 30%. Remaining field cover is generated by a diverse mix of species. Slender janusia (*Cottisia gracilis*) is the most consistent, averaging 2% cover. Other noteworthy species include bush muhly (*Muhlenbergia porteri*), fairyduster (*Calliandra eriophylla*), sangre de cristo (*Jatropha cardiophylla*), and American threefold (*Trixis californica*). Non-native buffelgrass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) is an inconsistent species that ranges from absent up to 18% cover. Arizona spikemoss (*Selaginella arizonica*) can be present at up to 20% cover, in areas with dominant bedrock.

### Common species

- *Parkinsonia microphylla*
- *Cylindropuntia bigelovii*
- *Encelia farinosa*

This shrubland covers 0.9% (241 ha/595 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and is present throughout the exposed, south-facing slopes of the lower Tanque Verde Ridge, especially around Box Canyon. It occurs on slopes of varying grade, from 15% to 50%, and occupies an elevational range from 934 to 1,144 meters (3,064–3,753 ft). The ground surface is covered with coarse gravel, exposed rock, and vast expanses of bedrock outcrops/shelves.



